

Parish Council NEWS



RESPONDING TO THE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Dear Resident

The Parish Council has responded to the Tandridge District Council consultation on the Local Plan.

These documents take the opportunity to do three things:

1. To object in the strongest possible terms to the possibility that our local green spaces, car parks, open land and gardens might be turned over to further housing by the District Council's planners when we in Caterham on the Hill have taken much more than our fair share of housing development over the last twenty years.
2. To correct the inaccurate information and inappropriate commentary by the District Planners in the consultation papers, who have refused the advice of local experts and continued, from their offices in Oxted, to repeat errors of fact and understanding.
3. To further strengthen the efforts of the CR3 Forum to provide, in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, which is produced by local people and will be voted on by local residents, a realistic, structured approach to the future of our communities, taking account of local business, transport, infrastructure etc in a way which will provide a sustainable vision for the future.



The 'Bellway Strip' between the Yorke Gate and Hambleton Park Estates - one of several areas in the Parish which the Tandridge District Plan suggests could be developed for housing. Our Draft CR3 Neighbourhood Plan proposes to safeguard it as a Local Green Space.

You can view these documents in full on our website (see below) under Your Parish Council > Planning and Policies > Planning Responses.

It is important that residents are not confused by the terms Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. The Local Plan is being produced in Oxted by the District Council. The CR3 Neighbourhood Plan, which will be voted on by CR3 residents in a democratic referendum later this year, is produced by local residents working hard in their own time to produce something lasting, accurate and sustainable, which takes full account of local concerns and sensitivities.



We have provided the governance of the CR3 project from the beginning, and I as its Chair and my colleagues from the Parish and Village Councils in CR3 have the fullest confidence in the Neighbourhood Plan as the proper vehicle for planning our future. On page 3, there are details of how you can contribute your comments and views.

We will continue to press for our voices in Caterham on the Hill to be heard and to campaign for a sensible approach to planning and development which respects us as residents and our views.

Cllr Chris Botten, Chairman of the Parish Council

THANK YOU

once again to the following, who helped with this year's Cedar Tree Lights Ceremony; 1st Caterham Scout Group and Andy Parr MBE who helped to set up and run the event; St Francis school choir, Hillcroft school choir and the Caterham Community choir who led the singing; Oxted Brass Band for musical accompaniment; Buxton Homes who let us use their car park and provided power for the Cedar tree lights; The King and Queen (Fullers PLC) who provided mulled wine and soft drinks; Hilary Turner and Waitrose for the mince pies; Father Christmas and his helpers who switched on the lights and gave out sweets.

£482 was raised for the Friends of Caterham Dene



Cllr Chris Botten handing over a cheque to Jean Baker from the Friends of Caterham Dene



Planning Applications Update

by Cllr Hilary Turner

Since our previous Newsletter, there has been yet another application for back garden development on the east side of Whyteleafe Road, between the schools and Annes Walk. This is for ten houses behind Nos.162-170 Whyteleafe Road. There are now a series of schemes for a total of 83 new dwellings. All are, at the time of writing, yet to be considered by Tandridge District Council, though a proposal for 13 (rather than 14) units on one site has been approved. The Parish Council has opposed all these applications on several grounds; details of our objections are on our website.

Small grants

The Parish Council has a small amount of money available to help local organisations in need of funding for specific projects. Below is a report from Julie Groves who received a grant for a Caterham Memory Tree. If your organisation would like to apply for a small grant you can do this online at www.caterhamhillparishcouncil.co.uk or contact the Parish Clerk.

Grant Report Julie Groves' Caterham Memory Tree

From late May to early June 2015, a large sculpture was exhibited as part of the Caterham Festival. This was the Caterham Memory Tree, made by local sound artist Julie Groves. As part of this project Julie had collected hundreds of memories from local (and also those now not-so-local) Caterham residents in one-on-one conversations. These conversations took place over a full year and were stored via Julie's recording device. This year of investigation culminated in the ten day exhibition of the Memory Tree, which Julie built by hand herself, in St Lawrence's Ancient Church which is situated at the cusp of Caterham on the Hill as it descends to the Valley.



Over 600 people - old and young alike - came to listen to and to walk beneath the branches of the large Tree sound art sculpture, eavesdropping into the soundscape Julie had edited and composed. The recordings were of wide ranging local memories and also included local tales and stories. The recordings were broadcast from speakers hanging in the branches. This Tree was truly a unique way of engaging with the oral history archive Julie has created - people of all ages and walks of life came to visit the exhibition.

Alongside support from two other local charities, the materials for the Tree received a generous grant from Caterham on the Hill Parish Council in the months leading up to the exhibition. This important financial support for sculptural materials enabled the project to get off the ground and to become a reality for the local community. Julie wishes to thank Caterham on the Hill Parish Council and the Caterham Festival for their support and encouragement during this time. The archive material which consists of the oral histories that Julie collected will be given to the local East Surrey Museum, the Bourne Society and will also soon be available on a dedicated website which is currently being built.

ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

Judging of the 2016 Allotment competition will take place in late July / early August this year.



Prizes will be given out at the Caterham Horticultural show in September. Good luck!

New bench for the High Street



Cllr Mike O'Reilly on the new bench provided by the Parish Council

CR3 Neighbourhood Plan



Chris Botten writes on page 1 about the progress we have made with our local Neighbourhood Plan. The Government's Localism Act allows Parish Councils and other local groups to get together and prepare neighbourhood plans for their

local areas.

Our CR3 Plan, prepared in draft by the local representatives and volunteers who make up the CR3 Forum, covers Caterham on the Hill, Caterham Valley, Chaldon and Whyteleafe. We have now reached the stage where we want your views and your input.

The CR3 Draft Neighbourhood Plan is now in the Westway and Valley Libraries. Supporting this are more detailed reports and appendices with further data. These will be found on the website: www.cr3forum.org.uk.

This period of consultation is expected to run to the middle of April. Do please get involved and become part of the process. CR3 is your neighbourhood; we want this to be your plan.

Cllr Sarah Burningham



COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Councillor surgeries are held on the last Saturday of the month at Caterham on the Hill Library (with the exception of December) from 10am to 12 noon.

If you have an issue you would like to discuss with your local representative please come along.



Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections take place in May this year.

If you would like to help make Caterham on the Hill a better place to live and work then perhaps consider standing for election as a Parish Councillor.

Parish Councillors are elected representatives who volunteer their time to work on behalf of their communities.

Parish Councillors have a dual role:-

- They represent the views and concerns of the residents of the Parish to the Parish Council itself and, through it, to the district and county councils;
- They report back to residents on issues affecting the parish (hence this newsletter).

The Caterham on the Hill parish council is less party political than Tandridge District or Surrey County councils and decisions are generally not made on party political lines. Parish Councillors come from all walks of life because it's about representing the community not yourself.

If you are interested in standing for election next year please contact one of the current Councillors (see the list at the back of this newsletter). If you would like to come along to a Parish Council meeting to see what it's like, you will be very welcome.

If being a Parish Councillor is not for you but you would still like to help improve your area then please get in touch with the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the front cover)

Dates of meetings are on the website at www.caterhamhillparishcouncil.co.uk

Where are the fountains of our youth?



When my family moved to Caterham on the Hill in 1955 there was a beautiful fountain in Queen's Park and also a drinking fountain on Westway Common by the telephone box on Chaldon Road. Town End recreation ground had a drinking fountain as well. One by one these have been de-commissioned so

now we have no fresh drinking water for children and animals. Surely it is better for people to drink water than have to buy expensive drinks which do more harm than good?

In 1897 the local council purchased a piece of land in Caterham on which to construct a park to mark Queen Victorias' Diamond Jubilee. On 23rd May 1900 the people of Caterham celebrated the Queens' 81st birthday with a party in the park. Frederick Augustus White JP owned the Portley Estate from approximately 1880 to 1903. The Fountain in Queens Park was donated by him on the day of the party. I have come across this information in Volume 64 of the Bourne Society's local history records, and it shows what a very good man FH White must have been!

If anyone else can remember lost fountains on the Hill I would like you to let me know, you never know, we might be able to resurrect some with modern work in them. No more iron cups on a chain for us!



Cllr Jean Hooper

The Parish Warden continues to report local issues such as potholes, overgrown hedges, litter and graffiti.

If you have any issues that you would like reported please email caterhamhillparishcouncil.co.uk



Oral History Project



Cllr Jeremy Webster has recently completed the first part of an oral history project which contains recordings of elderly Caterham residents sharing their memories of childhood and family life; working life; wartime; local features and shops, and characters in Caterham. Cllr Webster said, "I realised several years ago that if the fascinating local history that many elderly residents have to tell was not recorded then it would be lost forever. Thank you to fellow Parish Councillors who have helped with this project, in particular Sue Gauge, John Orrick and Sarah Burningham. I hope that listeners will find the CD interesting - in amongst all the recollections are one or two very moving stories which make quite gritty listening in places."

If you would like a copy of the oral history CD they are available in libraries or you can contact the Parish Clerk or Jeremy Webster (contact details below).

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is taking place on Wednesday 13th April at the library, Westway at 6.30pm. This is a chance for residents of Caterham on the Hill to discuss issues of importance to them and contributors to the oral history project (see above) will be presented with certificates.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Councillor Jeremy Webster

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Parish Council meetings take place on certain Wednesdays at Caterham on the Hill Library at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to give their comments.

To find dates of meetings go to caterhamhillparishcouncil.co.uk or contact the Parish Clerk on 01883 708310.